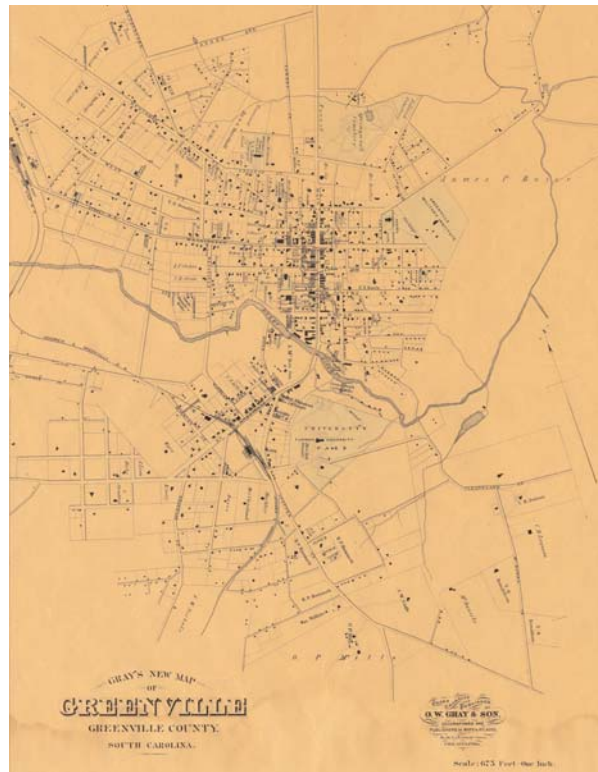


Introduction and Overview

1.0



1887 map of Greenville

1.1 HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

In the late 1800s, Furman University was located on the present site of County Square. To the south lay the estates of two prominent Greenville citizens, Mrs. Eliza Earle, wife of the deceased Dr. Robinson Earle, and Thomas B. Thruston. Together, Mrs. Earle and the Mr. Thruston once owned most, if not all, of the land that became part of today's Haynie-Sirrine neighborhood.

Prior to 1896, the area included Hayne, McKay, Brier, Lanneau and McHan Streets. Only the first three of these street names remain today. Around 1910, Hayne was changed to Haynie. This was probably not an intentional change; the name only became spelled as it always had been pronounced. Later, Lanneau Street became known as Pearl Street; and McHan Street was changed to Palmetto Street, and then to Urban Street.

The history of today's Haynie-Sirrine neighborhood includes one of the first black communities within the City of Greenville, with its beginnings located on University Ridge, then called Choice Avenue, and on the two sides of Brier Street. In 1887, a businessman named T. C. Gower bought 1.5 acres on Choice Street for \$149. The lots were purchased from Margaret M.

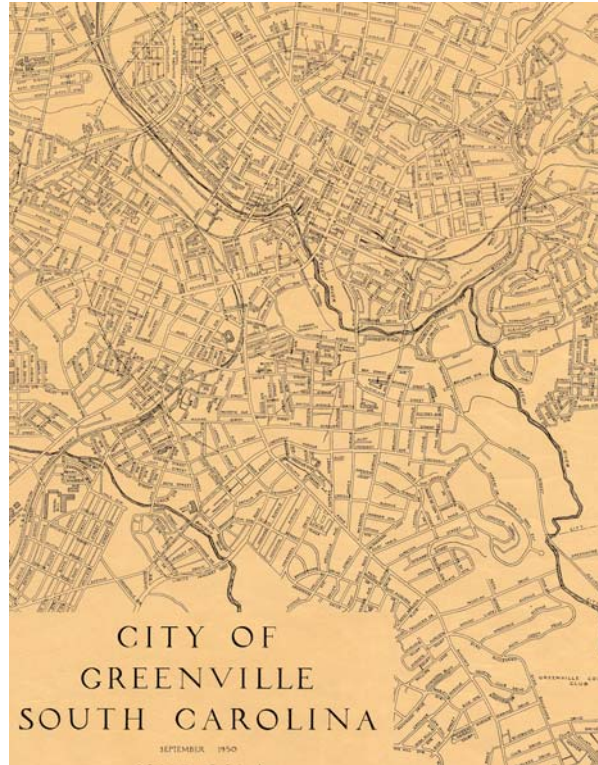


1930 map of Greenville

Carson and, originally, had been part of the Thruston Estate. Over the next eight years, this property was subdivided and sold to four black individuals for a total of \$280: Thomas Brier, a blacksmith who owned a shop on West Washington Street; Elias B. Holloway, a postal carrier; Jeremiah W. Seawright, a horseshoer; and James A. Brier, a teacher. Until his death in 1895, Mr. Gower provided other land-owning opportunities to black individuals, by purchasing other portions of Mrs. Carson's land, subdivided, and reselling.

Around 1891, George H. Chapin, from Massachusetts, became interested in the mineral springs of the area. He purchased two springs and the land between the two springs where a third spring flowed. An analysis of the water by the State Assayer for the State of Massachusetts showed that it contained in parts per 100,000: 1.824 parts Sodium Carbonate and 1.200 parts Carbonate of Lime along with smaller amounts of Silica, Iron and Aluminum Oxide, Magnesium Carbonate, Sodium Chloride, and Potassium Chloride. The Assayer indicated that it was "first-class spring water in every respect and would be found beneficial to those who are troubled with dyspepsia, indigestion or disarrangement of the digestive organs. It [also would be] beneficial in weakness or disease of the urinary organ; and when the

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1950 map of Greenville

1.0 Introduction and Overview

blood is impure from zymotic diseases, improper habits of living, etc." Referencing the success of a mineral bottling company out of Maine, the assayer suggested that the springs had the possibility of yielding "an immense fortune to its proprietors."

Seizing his opportunity for fortune, Mr. Chapin bought six adjacent tracts of land totaling about 24 acres for \$5715. On this tract, he developed a park with roads, gardens and paths, and erected a two-story wooden pavilion. He bottled his water on the lower floor of the pavilion, and used the open upper floor for picnics and dancing. He advertised his springs in the local paper and a magazine that he produced and published in Boston, called "Health Resorts of the South."

Some local people say that Mr. Chapin's most famous spring, the Crescent Mineral Spring, was located near what is now the northwest corner of Crescent Avenue and Capers Street. While Mr. Chapin did own a spring in that area, deeds and plats of his land suggest that the main mineral spring was located north of Haynie Street. Mr. Chapin said that his spring was "a few rods [or 3 times 16.5 feet] south of the forest-covered grounds of Furman University." Today, the Crescent Mineral Spring, sometimes referred to as the Greenville Medical Spring,

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they were in critical condition last night. Allen Grady Lollis of Simpsonville

Property Owners Protest

Church St. Plan Opposed By Group

The Property Owners Protective Assn., an organiza-
tion composed of lawyers, doctors, ministers, merchants,
executives, business women, realtors, homemakers and
club women, yesterday reiterated its strong opposition
to the Church St. extension plan which would provide
a cross-town link between the Superhighway and Augusta
St.

In a statement released by Mrs. C. C. Atrial, secretary of the association, the group's reasons were given as follows:

REASONS ARE CITED

"The road will cut through sev-
eral large, well established resi-
dential areas, completely damag-
ing the property value of hun-
dreds of others.

"Business will build up along
this road, eating like a cancer
into the surrounding residential
areas.

"Property owners and the city
will both suffer from such de-
preciation. According to the ex-
perts we have paid to zone our
city, Greenville already has far
too much property zoned for
business.

"The creation of this street will
be the equivalent of a second
'Main St.' and will cause a de-
preciation of present Main St.
property, and the merchants will
suffer accordingly. Whenever the
downtown section of a city decays,
then the city itself decays.

"Five schools would be direct-

of hundreds of elementary school
children will be endangered.

CHURCHES BE AFFECTED

"A number of churches will
either be abolished or damaged.

"At this meeting (of the associa-
tion), the group condemned
city Council's failure to keep
faith with the citizens and tax-
payers of Greenville, in as much
as no alternate route has been
offered, although Council prom-
ised in a public meeting Aug. 11,
1953, that before a decision was
made, three additional routes
would be submitted. This group
also deplores the fact that Coun-
cil is ready to turn Greenville
into a 'guinea pig' for the State
Highway Department to try out
an experimental access-controlled
highway, regardless of the dam-
age to Main St. business, fine
homes, schools and churches, and
regardless of promises made by
them and accepted in good faith
by the citizens concerned.

"The Property Owners Pro-
tective Assn. resents the state-
ment from Mr. (F. E.) Arm-
strong of the State Highway

Editorial in paper circa 1950

is located under Church Street. It is joined by the Crescent Ridge Spring and several other spring-fed streams, flows under Pearl Avenue, and enters a large culvert directly under the playing field of Sirrine Football Stadium.

In 1893, Mr. Chapin met with competition. The Verner Springs Bottling Company opened for business on the northwest side of town, where it remained in business for over 50 years, using mineral water to produce "soft" drinks - grape, cherry, and orange flavored. By 1907, Chapin's business was failing, so he sold 27 acres of his park land for \$1200 to the newly chartered Chapin Springs Land Company. The new owners immediately surveyed the property, subdivided it into small lots, and sold them for black residences. While some of the properties were purchased for homeownership, a large number of lots were sold for rental property.

Between 1896 and 1910, Haynie grew at a steady rate, gaining 14 residents. As late as 1931, portions of the Thruston/Carson tract were being bought by real estate developers, subdivided into small lots and resold to various individuals. Over the years, the farms of two prominent landowners were transformed into a neighborhood, home to domestics, blacksmiths, hostlers, foundry work-

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Chapin Springs Spa



Furman University

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ers, carriage factory workers, hotel maids and cooks, chauffeurs, and preachers.

Unfortunately, in the past years, the neighborhood suffered a decline, characterized predominately by substandard housing, vacant parcels and crime. Yet, many residents continued to make significant contributions, not just within their neighborhood, but also within the Greenville community. These individuals provide the foundation for the resurgence of the Haynie-Sirrine Neighborhood.

Historical information provided by Anne K. McCuen